Mount Auburn Cemetery.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE TRUSTEES.

JANUARY, 1881.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF THE

Cemetery of Mount Auburn,

TOGETHER WITH

THE REPORTS

OF THE

TREASURER AND SUPERINTENDENT.

JANUARY, 1881.

BOSTON:
ALFRED MUDGE & SON, PRINTERS,
No. 34 School Street.
1881.

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION FOR 1881.

Trustees.

WILLIAM S. EATON	*Term expires in*	1881.
ROGER WOLCOTT	" "	1881.
SAMUEL R. PAYSON	" "	1882.
T. QUINCY BROWNE	" "	1882.
HENRY A. RICE	" "	1883.
ALANSON BIGELOW	" "	1883.
EDWARD LAWRENCE	" "	1884.
CHARLES F. CHOATE	" "	1884.
CHARLES U. COTTING	" "	1885.
DAVID R. WHITNEY	" "	1885.
ISRAEL M. SPELMAN	" "	1886.
JEROME JONES	" "	1886.

President.

ISRAEL M. SPELMAN.

Treasurer.

H. B. MACKINTOSH.

Secretary.

J. HARRIS REED.

Superintendent.

JAMES W. LOVERING.

Foreman.

C. McARTHUR.

Supt. of Interments.

A. A. BARKER.

Surveyor.

S. L. BROWN.

Gardener.

JOSEPH COLLINS.

Office of the Corporation.
16 PEMBERTON SQUARE,
BOSTON.

Office of the Superintendent,
AT THE CEMETERY.
P. O. ADDRESS : CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Orders for work on lots may be given at either office, or sent by mail to Superintendent, at the Cemetery.

REPORT.

THE past year has been one of general business prosperity, in which our corporation has had its reasonable share. Our sales of lots show an increase of $5,377. Our cash assets are so considerably in excess that the remaining indebtedness of $5,000 will probably disappear from our accounts early in the coming year. We have on hand, also, the usual number of lots, of varying sizes, prepared and ready for sale without further expenditure on our part.

Besides the usual routine work, considerable labor has been expended in the development and improvement of the landscape lawn portion of the cemetery. Part of the grounds bordering on Magnolia, Swan, Pearl, and Crystal Avenues has been laid out and planted with trees and shrubbery. Pearl Avenue, which leads to the new gate on Coolidge Avenue, on the southerly or Brighton side of the cemetery, has been so far completed as to be nearly ready for use. Visitors can be admitted from this direction during the ensuing summer should it be deemed desirable.

The Superintendent's report shows that the usual amount of work has been done on avenues, paths, and lots. Many of the old lots have been improved by regrading and the removal of stone curbs and iron fences. This process, continued from year to year, will gradually introduce into the older part of the cemetery the distinctive features of the landscape lawn, now so generally approved. Sixty iron fences have been removed during the past year, eight less than in the preceding year. The number will decrease yearly as the defective fences are removed, while few or no new ones are erected.*

*It may be well to state that where the removal of iron fences is made by the Corporation, in most cases the fence more than pays the expense of removal, which alone is charged to the proprietor, and the balance laid out upon the improvement of the lot.

The drought of the past year somewhat increased the expenses of watering. It told severely upon the appearance of our lakes, which were unusually low and exposed more of their beds and stones than was desirable. We were able, however, in fair measure to preserve the verdure of the grass and flower beds, and to sustain the growth of the young trees and shrubs.

At the last annual meeting a motion was introduced and adopted directing the Trustees "to examine into the continued payments made to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, to employ counsel, and to take such other steps as may seem advisable for the purpose of finally adjusting and separating whatever interests may still appear to exist between the two corporations, and to report their action hereunder at the next meeting of the proprietors."

The Trustees have given this subject serious consideration during the past year, and still have it under advisement. The payments made to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society are found to be in accordance with the Act of the Legislature, passed in the year 1835, incorporating the Proprietors of the Cemetery of Mount Auburn, and it does not appear that they could be altered or changed without authority of the Legislature and the mutual agreement of the parties interested. The Massachusetts Horticultural Society, we are officially informed, desire no change, and are unwilling to enter upon and consider any propositions looking to a separation of interests. The Trustees are not as yet able to suggest any arrangements which appear to be more equitable and less burdensome than those of the contract under which we are now operating; and which, in the judgment of our predecessors in office, settled and adjusted all difficulties which had arisen under the Act satisfactorily, and with due regard to the interests of both parties. The proprietors may rest assured that the Trustees will keep this matter before them, and should any favorable opportunity offer for improving the financial relations of this corporation with the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, will not hesitate to avail themselves of it, and report their doings in regard to the same.

In the report for the year 1878 a table was given showing the reductions which had been made, from year to year, in the charges for care of

lots and top-dressing during the four preceding years. In 1875, the total charge for a lot of three hundred square feet was $9.00; in 1878 it had been reduced to $5.75, more than one third. It was stated in that report that the object the Trustees had in view was to reduce the charge as nearly to the cost of doing the work as possible, "making reasonable allowance for variations in the prices of labor and materials, losses in collection, and other accidental circumstances." It was further added, "that possibly *some further reduction* might be made, but that this was not likely, unless from the economy which might result from the corporation *having an increased number of lots* under its charge; and that the more the proprietors saw fit to employ the corporation in this service, the less undoubtedly per lot would be the expense for the work performed."

The response on the part of the proprietors was gratifying. We were able to make a further reduction, in the year 1879, to $5.00, of which $3.00 was for care, and $2.00 for top-dressing. From that time the number of lots under the annual care of the corporation has steadily increased, notwithstanding the gradual withdrawal of many lots, which yearly pass under perpetual care. It is desirable that this increase should continue, and we believe it for the interest of every proprietor to aid the Trustees in their efforts to have this work done as cheaply as possible; and that the remaining profit, whatever it may happen to be, should accrue to the benefit of the corporation of which he is a member. Indeed, it would seem hardly possible that the labor could now be performed by outside workmen as cheaply as by the corporation. A necessary inference would be that those employing such labor must pay a higher price to cover the profit, without which the outside laborer could not be induced to undertake the work. Without wishing to interfere with the wishes or privileges of proprietors in the slightest degree, the Trustees deem it their duty to call attention to this subject, and to urge upon proprietors first to call upon the Secretary at his office, 16 Pemberton Square, or the Superintendent at the cemetery, before engaging the services of others; and especially to assure themselves that the persons they employ, if they desire to aid the corporation, are really in its service. Such has not always been the case in times past, as we are

well assured by complaints which have been made, and for which we were unable to furnish any adequate redress. To prevent any mistake in future, the names of the officers of the corporation are printed on the first page of this report, and in the Appendix may be found a detailed table of the charges now in force.

It will be seen by the Treasurer's report that the permanent fund shows an increase of $5,911, and now amounts to $220,293.79.

The fund for endowments for perpetual care of lots amounts to $270,646.28. The increase for the year has been $31,083.98.

For the Trustees,

ISRAEL M. SPELMAN, *President.*

JANUARY 12, 1881.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Trustees of the Cemetery of Mount Auburn:

GENTLEMEN, — I have the honor to present herewith the Annual Report of the Superintendent for the year ending Dec. 31, 1880.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Number of new lots graded and bounded with granite posts	54
" old lots improved by being graded and sodded	61
" old lots bounded with granite posts	12
" lots enclosed with granite	5
" lots furnished with granite or iron numbers	90
" tombs removed	2
" headstones erected	262
" monuments erected	23
" linear feet of gutters repaved	1,527
" iron fences removed	60
" hedges removed	1

INTERMENT RECORD.

Total number of interments, as per last Report		22,082
Number of original interments for year ending Dec. 31, 1880	493	
" removals from other cemeteries	48	
Total number of interments for the year		541
Total number of interments in cemetery		22,623
Of the above there were deposits in the receiving-tomb	32	
" " " " interments in public lots	36	

THE REMOVALS WITHIN AND FROM THE CEMETERY WERE AS FOLLOWS: —

To public lots	2	
To private lots	34	
Total removals within the cemetery		36
" " from the cemetery		10
Total number of removals		46

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. LOVERING,

Superintendent of the Cemetery of Mount Auburn.

MOUNT AUBURN, Dec. 31, 1880.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

Cash balance from preceding year		$3,362.15
He has received from sundry parties, —		
For sale of lots	$16,747.00	
" deposits in receiving-tomb	448.00	
		$17,195.00
For deeds, transfers, etc.		204.00
" labor and material on lots		39,578.99
From Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, for income on permanent fund		8,000.00
From Massachusetts Horticultural Society, for one quarter part of expenditures, as follows: —		
Grading Magnolia Ave.	$482.25	
" Swan "		
" Pearl "	2,205.50	
" Crystal "		
	$2,687.75	
One quarter of $2.687.75	$671.94	
		671.94
		65,649 93
		$69,012.08

FOR THE 49TH YEAR, 1880.

EXPENDITURES.

He has paid sundry parties, —		
For labor, pay-roll	$29,927.46	
" materials	11,492.47	
" repairs of buildings	318.46	
		$41,738.39
For expenses, — salaries		6,500.00
" office expenses		1,722.12
" taxes on real estate		599.04
To amount paid Massachusetts Horticultural Society for its proportion of sales		3,927.50
To amount paid Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company for permanent fund		5,418.00
To amount paid interest on loans		452.79
" " " notes payable		5,000.00
" " " graves repurchased	$55.00	
" " " new receiving-tomb drawback	30.00	
		85.00
		$65,442.84
Balance in hands of the Treasurer		3,569.24
		$69,012.08

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF THE REPAIR FUND.

Balance in hands of Treasurer, as per last report		$16,627.30
He has received, —		
From notes receivable	$13,675.00	
" City of Boston bonds (called)	13,000.00	
" endowments	27,629.50	
" income of investments	14,733.19	
		69,037.69
		$85,664.99
He has paid for said account, —		
For care and improvement of lots	$11,278.71	
" notes receivable	62,500.00	
		$73,778.71
Balance in hands of Treasurer		11,886.28
		$85,664.99

REPAIR FUND.

PROPERTY.

Endowments for perpetual repair of lots, as per last report	$239,562.30	
Additions during the year	31,083.98	
		$270,646.28
Invested as follows: —		
Notes receivable, secured by mortgage	$240,950.00	
$10,000 Boston City bonds	9,710.00	
30 shares Atlas National Bank, cost	2,970.00	
20 shares Atlantic National Bank, cost	2,700.00	
20 shares Shawmut Bank, cost	2,430.00	
		258,760.00
Cash in hands of Treasurer		11,886.28
		$270,646.28

GENERAL FUND.

CASH ASSETS.

Cash in hands of Treasurer		$3,569.24	
Bills for labor and material uncollected	$7,569.03		
Less due sundry parties for labor and material	1,968.24		
		5,600.79	
			$9,170.03

LIABILITIES.

Notes payable	$5,000.00

PERMANENT FUND.

Deposited with Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, as per last report		$214,382.52
Deposited in December, 1880	$5,418.00	
Interest	493.27	
		5,911.27
		$220,293.79

Also a deposit in trust with Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, Policy No. 3,594, for $6,300, payable on the decease of certain parties to the Proprietors of the Cemetery of Mount Auburn, for perpetual care of a certain lot.

THE OTHER PROPERTY OF THE CORPORATION

Consists of nearly 136 acres of cemetery grounds, with avenues and paths, waterworks for the supply of fountains and watering purposes, and underground pipes and drains, chapel and statuary, observatory, receiving-tomb, gateway, and other structures; reception-house and 5,626 feet of land on Mount Auburn Street, superintendent's house, green-houses, and 64,176 feet between Brattle and Mount Auburn Streets, and the Stone meadow on the east side of Coolidge Avenue, containing about five acres, on which are located the stables and other buildings.

Respectfully submitted,

H. B. MACKINTOSH, *Treasurer.*

BOSTON, Jan. 8, 1881.

This certifies that we have examined the books and accounts of the Treasurer of the Proprietors of the Cemetery of Mount Auburn for the year eighteen hundred and eighty, and have found them correctly kept and properly balanced, with satisfactory vouchers for all payments.

The certificates of stock and other evidences of property were found in accordance with the statement of his accounts.

In the general account there appears to be a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of $3,569.24, and in the fund for repairs, $11,886.28.

T. QUINCY BROWNE,
HENRY A. RICE, } *Committee on Finance.*

BOSTON, Jan. 12, 1881.

APPENDIX.

TO PROPRIETORS.

INFORMATION.

THE following statement is presented in answer to the question frequently asked in regard to the title to a lot when the proprietor dies.

By the original act of incorporation, lots are held as real estate. The proprietor can convey, or by will devise, his lot; but if he dies intestate, it descends to his heirs-at-law, who are (Chap. 220, Acts of 1876): —

Title to lot held as real estate.

If proprietor dies intestate.

Heirs-at-law.

1. Children, and issue of any deceased child.
2. If no issue, then his or her father and mother.
3. If no issue nor mother, then his or her father.
4. If no issue nor father, then his or her mother.
5. If no issue, and no father nor mother, then his or her brothers and sisters, and children of any deceased brother or sister.
6. If no issue, and no father, mother, brother, nor sister, then next of kin.
7. If a widow and no kindred, then the widow.*

Except as provided by 7, the widow has *no title* to a lot; and, unless the heirs-at-law convey it to her, she cannot order interments.

Widow no title or right to lot.

If a proprietor in his will makes no devise of the lot, it becomes a part of the residuary estate; or if not devised, and no bequest of residue, it descends to heirs-at-law.

Provisions of will.

* See note next page.

Representative to be designated.

Chap. 28, Sect. 3, General Statutes, and Sect. 8 of Charter, provide, "If there be more than one devisee or heir-at-law, the Board of Trustees may designate which one shall represent the lot."

Representative no control over title.

This designation *does not affect the title.* They (the heirs or devisees) are tenants-in-common; no sale can be made unless all sign conveyance.

Petition for representative. Importance of prompt return.

It is IMPORTANT that the petition for representation (furnished by the secretary) should be PROMPTLY returned with the names and residences of the heirs, and signed by a *majority:* otherwise delays may occur at the cemetery in ascertaining whether the order for interment is properly signed.

Lots indivisible. No record of part ownership.

Lots are *indivisible*, and "no record of any person's interest in a lot, less than the entire ownership, shall be made on the books of the corporation." (Rules and Regulations, Art. vii.)

J. HARRIS REED,
Secretary.

JANUARY. 1881.

1874. A bill relating to rights of widows in cemetery lots, favorably reported, did not become a law.

NOTE. — At the session of the Legislature in 1874, the Senate Committee on Probate and Chancery, to whom was referred the bill relating to rights of widows in cemetery lots, reported that the bill ought to pass. The bill was as follows: Chap. 28, Sect. 3, of the General Statutes, is hereby amended by inserting after the word "privilege" the words, "and if he shall leave a widow, she shall, for the purposes of this act, be construed one of the heirs-at-law, or one of the devisees of said lot, as the case may be." The bill did not become a law.

PRICES FOR THE CARE OF LOTS,

ADOPTED BY THE TRUSTEES

FOR 1881.

SIZE OF LOT.	CARE.	TOP-DRESSING.
100 square feet.	$1.50	$1.00
200 " "	2.00	1.50
300 " "	3.00	2.00
400 " "	4.00	2.50
500 " "	5.00	3.00
600 " "	6.00	3.50
700 " "	7.00	4.00
800 " "	8.00	4.50

Larger lots at special rates.

Lots containing fractional parts of 100 feet will be charged the rate of the nearest 100 feet.

Proprietors will find blank order herewith, which they can fill and mail to Superintendent, Cambridge. ☞ *Erase what is not wanted.*

To the Superintendent of Mount Auburn Cemetery,

Cambridge. Mass.

Please take care of my lot, No......*, this year,*

and put in.....*plants, and top-dress,*

Sending bill to

.....

Address,.....

JANUARY, 1881.